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LETTER DATED 15 APRIL 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF UGANDA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by the Government of the Republic of Uganda on the report of the Secretary-General pursuant to Security Council resolution 1044 (1996) (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Perezi Karukubiro KAMUNANWIRE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Statement by Uganda on the report of the Secretary-General pursuant to Security Council resolution 1044 (1996)

1. Uganda has taken note of the report of the Secretary-General pursuant to Security Council resolution 1044 (1996) circulated in document S/1996/179 of 11 March 1996.

2. Uganda has also taken note of the commentary by the Government of the Sudan on the Secretary-General's report, contained in document S/1996/201 of 15 March 1996, and is obliged to respond to allegations made against it in that commentary.

3. Uganda expresses its gratitude to the Secretary-General for the report of his Special Envoy, Mr. Chinmaya Gharekhan, who visited Uganda on 23 February 1996 and held discussions with the Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda, the Honourable Kintu Musoke. Uganda wishes to draw the attention of the Council to the fact that the state of relations between Uganda and the Sudan has not improved since then.

4. The Sudan has not stopped its activities of assisting, supporting, facilitating and giving shelter and sanctuary to the rebels of the Lords Resistance Army of Joseph Kony. The Sudan has also rendered similar support to the West Nile Bank Front rebels of Juma Oris who operate from bases within its territory against Uganda, in contravention of the Charters of the United Nations and of the Organization of African Unity. In the Gulu and Kitgum districts of northern Uganda, where the rebels operating from their secure bases inside the Sudan have made several incursions, a lot of horrendous atrocities have been perpetrated against innocent civilians. The latest of these incursions was when more than 500 rebels crossed into Uganda from Aru in the Sudan, by way of Mogali, on 7 February 1996. Over 50 civilians have been killed since this rebel group crossed into Uganda. Several millions of dollars worth of personal and State property have also been looted or destroyed.

5. In addition to the rebel incursions, the Sudanese armed forces have also shelled and its air force bombed Uganda territory on a number of occasions. In a determine continuation of its policy of unprovoked aggression against Uganda, Sudanese armed forces based in Kaya, using a variety of artillery pieces, shelled the territory between Keri and Oraba in north-west Uganda for three consecutive days between 8 and 10 April 1996. On the first day, the shelling was sustained from 6.30 p.m. continuing throughout the night. On the following day, shelling started at 8.45 a.m. and ended at 2.30 p.m. It then resumed on the third day at 6.15 a.m. continuing to 12 noon. Sudanese air force planes also dropped bombs in the same area on 9 April 1996. Uganda condemns in the strongest terms possible these unprovoked acts of aggression. Uganda calls upon the Security Council, the Organization of African Unity and the international community to equally condemn the Sudan in the strongest possible terms and also requests that the strongest possible measures be taken to dissuade the Sudan from committing any further acts of unprovoked aggression against Uganda.

6. In the commentary on the Secretary-General's report (S/1996/201, para. 16), the Sudan has denied its involvement in support of Uganda's rebels, giving as a pretext the allegations that the rebel movement in southern Sudan controls approaches to our common border. It should be noted, however, that southern Sudan is a vast area that is sparsely populated and that, in these circumstances, it is easy for the rebels to filter through the Sudanese Peoples Liberation Army lines. Furthermore, the Government of the Sudan controls the area along our common border west of the river Nile. The revelations of the rebels captured in clashes with the Uganda armed forces along the common border area and the supplies and military hardware captured from them are clear evidence of the Sudanese Government's involvement and complicity in our destabilization.

7. The Sudan also accuses Uganda of supplying arms, men, logistics, and military and political support and of providing transit and access to all forces and parties that are supporting the insurgency in southern Sudan. In a ridiculous allegation, the Sudan has even gone to the extent of accusing Uganda of invading the Sudan with tanks and heavy weapons in October 1995. This is not the first time such wild allegations have been made by the Sudan against Uganda. Uganda categorically dismisses these allegations with the utter contempt they deserve. These are standard practices of Sudanese propaganda to hoodwink the world. The war in southern Sudan is purely an internal conflict between the Sudanese people themselves. Uganda believes that the solution to that conflict can only be forged by the Sudanese people themselves. Uganda's interest in the Sudan conflict has been in the framework of the peace initiative of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development. The aim of this initiative has been to find a peaceful and lasting solution to the conflict in the Sudan. Indeed, Uganda has participated actively in the interest of peace and stability in the region.

8. In its commentary on the Secretary-General's report (para. 17), the Sudan has fabricated allegations that Uganda manoeuvred to distance the Sudanese military monitoring team away from roads used to transport supplies to the insurgency in southern Sudan and that because of this, the Sudan decided to withdraw the team. These allegations are blatantly false.

9. In 1990, with a view to allaying the Sudan's fears and endless allegations, Uganda invited the Sudan to station a military monitoring team on the Uganda side of our common border. The purpose was to ascertain whether Uganda was indeed supporting the Sudanese Peoples Liberation Army with war logistics. Uganda did not determine the locations of the Sudanese military monitoring team at Arua, Moyo, Laropi and Pakwach bridge, all points leading to southern Sudan. It was indeed the Sudanese side who chose and stationed themselves at these locations, despite allegations to the contrary. After four months of operation, the Sudanese Government requested and was granted extension of locations to Gulu and Atiak in northern Uganda. By October 1994, after monitoring the situation for four years, the team had not come up with any evidence of Uganda's alleged support for the Sudanese Peoples Liberation Army.

10. The truth of the matter is that the Sudanese military monitoring team did not withdraw but was requested to do so by Uganda in October 1995. This was due to the violation of the agreement and operational guidelines under which the

team operated. Furthermore, the team was involved in activities aimed at compromising the security of Uganda and had taken on the role of an intelligence arm for the Uganda rebels operating from the Sudan.

11. Uganda is committed to its policy of good-neighbourliness and peaceful coexistence with all its neighbours. Uganda calls upon the Security Council to live up to its responsibility with regard to maintaining international peace and security. In this connection, therefore, Uganda reiterates the need for the Council to take any measures necessary, including an arms embargo against the Sudan, to ensure that it desists from engaging in activities that are not only destabilizing Uganda but are plunging the entire subregion into chaos.